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(b) The Government are satisfied that the police acted with great restraint on the occasion in question and that force was only employed against those taking part in a banned procession. A Mappilla boy was knocked down as the processionists were in flight, and was not beaten by the police as alleged.

Alleged prevention by the police of the general body meeting of the Ramachandrapuram Club and Reading Room.

* 627 Q.—Mr. K. Koti Reddi: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Secretaries of Ramachandrapuram Club and Reading Room, East Godavari district, were informed by police officials that the general body meeting that was announced to take place at 5 p.m. on 25th January 1931 in the club premises could only be held if the members were prepared to be dispersed by the use of lathis;

(b) whether it is a fact that on refusal of certain members of the club playing cards to leave the club when asked to do so by a head constable in mufti, the head constable left the club and returned with a reserve constable armed with a lathi and then asked them to leave the club; and

(c) what were the circumstances which led the police to act in that manner and under what provision of law or authority they so acted?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The answer is in the negative. There being reason to suppose that anti-Government measures would be discussed at the meeting, a head constable in mufti was asked to attend and report what took place. He did not take the action ascribed to him.

(c) Does not arise.

Prevention of a business meeting of the Ramachandrapuram Club.

* 628 Q.—Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether he has received a petition from Mr. B. Venkataratnam, ex-M.L.C., Vice-President, Ramachandrapuram Club and Reading Room, in which he stated that the police stopped a business meeting of the members of the club, on the 25th January last and if so, what action has been taken on it?

A.—Yes. The Government have obtained a report from the District Magistrate of East Godavari and the answer to question No. 627, to which the hon. Member is referred, is based upon that report. No further action is proposed to be taken on Mr. Venkataratnam's petition.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I know, Sir, whether the hon. the Home Member expresses regret with regard to this question also?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"I never expressed regret or any such thing. All that I said was, it is not worth while now pursuing these questions in view of the settlement between the Government and the Congress."